

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1711

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit

: 1711

Customer No. 035811

Docket No.: 1103-04

Confirmation No.: 5229

Examiner

: Ana Lucrecia Woodward

Serial No.

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: April 21, 2004

Inventors)

: Ryoichi Sato

: Tatsuo Tsumiyama

Yoshinobu SakaiHideki OzawaFumio Aoki

Title

: FOAMED POLYIMIDE SHAPED

: ARTICLE AND PROCESS FOR

: PRODUCTION OF SAME

Dated: May 22, 2007

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Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is submitted in response to the Official Action dated February 22, 2007.

Claims 16, 18, 21 – 27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 over Hill. Also, Claims 17, 19, 20 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Hill. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's helpful comments with respect to the application of Hill to those claims, particularly with respect to the idea that the claims do not preclude the heat resistant binder from being foamable and the polyimide precursor disclosed by Hill may be used in the same states that the presently claimed heat resistant binders are used, i.e., in the powdered state or in a solvent solution.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Hill is actually non-enabling with respect to its use against the rejected claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that Hill neither anticipates nor PHILI\3826852.1

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